

Murray

A

Biographical Sketch
of

Henry Tuke

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A
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
HENRY TUKE.

By LINDLEY MURRAY.

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York :

PRINTED FOR W. ALEXANDER, AND SOLD BY HIM ;

SOLD ALSO BY

M. M. AND E. WEBB, BRISTOL ;

DARTON, HARVEY, AND CO. W. PHILLIPS,

AND W. DARTON, JUN. LONDON.

1815.



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J. Foster Fox
from his Aunt
Lydia Forster
1817.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

1890

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A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH &c.

WHEN the ties of nature, and virtuous connexions, are dissolved by death, the dissolution is often attended with inexpressible anguish. But how much more deeply distressing, and, in many instances, how overwhelming, would these separations be, if they were considered as final; if the connexions were believed to be dissolved for ever? So mournful a persuasion, whatever degree of obscurity may attend the subject, is not the destitute condition of man. The Divine goodness has permitted us to hope, that if we labour to be faithful unto death, we shall not only

receive a crown of life, but be united again, in a holy and spiritual union, in purer and stronger bonds of love, to those who were justly dear to us in this mortal state. It may therefore be allowable, in the meantime, frequently to indulge the hope of this spiritual re-union, and to feel our hearts influenced by it. Our departed, pious friends, will not then be wholly lost to us, even in this life.

These considerations, with others which follow, appear to warrant the author of this Memoir, in producing some account of the exemplary life of his dear and excellent friend, Henry Tuke. To him, indeed, it can be of no consequence. He is far removed from the present transient scene; and is doubtless lodged in a mansion of eternal peace, where no praises or opinions of men can, in any degree, affect him. But to his numerous relatives and friends, to those who knew and loved him, the review of his well-spent life, the recollection of his amiable

qualities, and the testimonies borne to his many virtues; must prove both interesting and consolatory. And it may be hoped that, in the breast of every serious reader, the narrative will excite afresh the love of goodness, and a renewed desire to be united to that happy number, who, through faith and patience, rest from their labours, and inherit the Divine promises.

The subject of this Memoir was born in the year 1755, in the City of York, of pious and truly respectable parents. His natural disposition was lively and active. When a boy, though of an affectionate temper, he was quick of resentment, and often fearlessly engaged with his school-fellows in bodily contests. But when the gentle and forbearing principle of religion took possession of his heart, those resentful feelings were controlled, and brought under due government and direction. His warm and animated temperament, served afterwards to excite in him greater indignation against vice and in-

justice, and greater zeal and firmness in the pursuit of what he conceived to be right. It was about the thirteenth year of his age, that this decided and happy change appeared in his manners and conduct. His mind then received the impressions, which restrained its excesses; and which, doubtless, afforded him more true satisfaction than all his former indulgences.

About his seventh year he was deprived of his mother; but this loss was, a few years afterwards, eminently supplied by a wise and prudent step-mother, who exercised over him a truly affectionate and parental attention. He was indeed blessed with the guardianship of discreet and religious parents, who were deeply concerned for his improvement and welfare, in every point of view. He possessed also the inestimable benefit of the society, conversation, and example, of many friends who occasionally came under his observation; and particularly of those who were often, in the course of their re-

ligious travels, entertained at his father's house. Such a guarded education, and such privileges, could scarcely fail to impress his youthful and susceptible mind, with pious and virtuous sentiments; and to qualify him for that Divine influence, which is both the source and the support of every religious attainment. Ground thus prepared, and seed thus early sown, promise, sooner or later, a precious harvest; and this blessing attended the religious labours bestowed upon him.

He possessed an excellent understanding; and, when put to school, he made a quick and regular progress in learning, and became a great favourite with his master. Besides the usual attainments of an English education, in a boarding school kept at Sowerby, near Thirsk, by a Friend of the name of Ellerby, he studied the Latin and Greek languages; and though the advances which he made in these tongues, were not critically extensive, they were of considerable

use to him. They made him acquainted with the general principles and construction of languages, and prepared him for investigating more readily the rules and formation of his native tongue. They encouraged him to pursue his biblical studies; and enabled him to prosecute them with greater satisfaction to his own mind, than he could have done without this advantage; and they also qualified him the better to vindicate his religious sentiments, both in private conference, and in some of his publications. From the purity of his mind; it appears that these advantages were obtained, without incurring those taints and corruptions, which are too often the consequence of perusing some of the ancient classics, in their imperfect state of purification.

After he had finished at school, and on the death of his teacher at Sowerby, he kindly undertook to superintend the seminary, for the benefit of the widow; and he accordingly continued it

for a short time. This office contributed, doubtless, in no small degree, to fix his own acquirements, and still farther to improve himself : for those attentions which we employ in the instruction of others, naturally sharpen our own powers, and stimulate us to be fully competent to perform the duties which we have undertaken.

Whilst he was at Sowerby, he contracted a taste for the study of Physic ; and he employed some of his leisure time in that science. But his father being desirous that he should assist him in his business, he returned to York, about the fifteenth year of his age ; and came again under the care of his parents. He did not hesitate to give up his own inclinations ; and applied himself with resolute diligence to his father's occupation. To relinquish an object which he appears to have had so much at heart, and to do it cheerfully, when he perceived that it did not accord with his father's views and wishes, was a strong proof of filial obedience ;

and of respect for his superior judgment, concerning the most eligible mode of his son's future employment in life.

But though he steadily pursued his father's business, he found opportunity, by early rising and extraordinary exertion, to indulge, in a moderate degree, his turn for literature, and to retain and extend the classical knowledge he had acquired. Some of the persons with whom the nature of his business led him frequently to associate, were of a stamp far from being likely to promote, either his moral or intellectual improvement. And it may reasonably be supposed, that his taste for literature, and his industrious pursuit of useful knowledge, contributed, in no small degree, to elevate his mind above mean and debasing objects, and to preserve him from the contagion of vicious example. This desire of improvement also laid the foundation of his future extensive usefulness in society.—It is proper here to observe, that he possessed great

frankness of disposition, and a great desire to oblige ; so that, during the period of his apprenticeship, he made himself very agreeable to the domestic circle, being remarkably ready to leave his favourite pursuits, when he could render assistance to any who required and wanted his aid.

His steady and industrious conduct induced his father, at a proper age, to take him into partnership ; and he continued to prosper, and to grow in his attachment to the best things. In the twenty sixth year of his age, he entered into the married state ; and it may be truly said, that he was a faithful and affectionate husband, and a kind and judicious father, greatly solicitous for the best interests of his children. Their dutiful, and respectful behaviour to him, and to their mother, and their conduct in life, must have been most grateful to his mind ; and are striking proofs of his wise and tender guardianship over them.

For many years before his decease, his wife had been afflicted and confined, under great bodily weakness. But no pressure of his other concerns could interrupt or remit his attentions towards the beloved partner of his bosom. To make her comfortable, and to administer to her all the alleviations in his power, he considered not merely as incumbent upon him, but as the discharge of an obligation which afforded him peculiar satisfaction. In the performance of the religious duties which called him from home, his anxiety on leaving her in so feeble a state of health, was greatly mitigated by the cheerful and cordial manner, in which she met these views of his services ; and by the encouragement and promotion of them, which she uniformly and actively afforded. Through life, and even to its latest period, he cherished and manifested great esteem and reverence towards his father, who loved and valued him in a high degree. A greater proof of this cannot be given than his expressions made a few hours before his decease :

“My dear father,” said he, “how I have loved and revered thee! And now we are likely to part. But I am perfectly resigned to the will of my Heavenly Father.”

For the greater part of his life, he was engaged in the holy vocation of a minister of the Gospel; and laboured earnestly, in great love and humility, to promote the happiness, both here and hereafter, of his fellow creatures. The truly humble and dedicated state of his mind under this engagement, might be shown by extracts from many of his letters: indeed it was evinced by a correspondent life and deportment. But it is particularly manifested by the following extract from a letter, which he wrote in the latter part of his life, and after he had been many years exercised in the office and labours of a Christian minister. It is, in several respects, a characteristic, and very instructive letter.

“I do not seem to have much to say, though I have taken up my pen to write thee a letter.

To tell thee that I love thee is, I hope, needless : I can also say that I sympathize with thee, in thy various exercises from within and without. But thus it behoves some to suffer, that they may be the better qualified to speak a word in due season to the weary traveller : and, patiently undergoing the various dispensations allotted in Infinite Wisdom, may experience them ultimately to terminate in the increase of joy and peace, in believing that faithful is He who hath promised, “ I will never leave thee nor forsake thee ;” and “ who also will do it.”

“ I have not been sorry for my little turn out with thee ; though it has increasingly convinced me of my own weakness, which I sometimes think I sensibly feel to grow upon me ; and am ready to indulge the apprehension, that the gift will be wholly taken from me. Indeed I never considered it necessarily a gift for life ; and if it should be taken away without my fault, I believe I should not find it difficult to obtain the same

resignation, which is our duty on other occasions ; and to acknowledge, “ The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord.” But be this as it may, one thing I find, which to be sure is rather unnatural, that the longer I live, the more I am reduced to that state, which breathes the language of, “ Lord ! I am a child ;” sometimes with an addition like that of, “ I cannot speak ;” though at others, the more resigned language will prevail : “ Take me, and lead me, where thou wouldest have me to go.” And here I wish to center ; and leave all to Him who doth all things right, and who, my small experience has taught me, is worthy to be served and obeyed in all things. Mayst thou witness the renewal of thy confidence in Him, who has put thee forth, and gone before thee ; and who, I doubt not, will continue to make way for thee, as thy eye continues to be single unto Him, who has thus separated thee to his work and service.”

Through the course of his religious life, he was eminently distinguished for his love to God and love to men, and for the virtues which flow from this Divine principle. Few men, even of religious characters, have lived more above the low and selfish propensities of our nature. He not only rejoiced in the religious welfare and progress of his friends; but he took pleasure in their temporal comforts and accommodations, and the various improvements of their external condition. He was indeed aware of the great danger of riches, and often spoke of them as incentives to self dependence, and forgetfulness of the Bountiful Giver; yet he knew that the good things of this life, are real blessings, when they are pursued and enjoyed with moderation, and possessed with humility and gratitude.

The writer of this Memorial thinks it will be agreeable to the reader, if he inserts a few traits of the character of this excellent person, which were sent to him by his son, at the writer's par-

ticular request. They relate to a part of the character with which he must have been most intimately acquainted. And the sentiments of such an informant, concerning a father, whom he so thoroughly knew, and so highly esteemed and loved, will doubtless be perused with peculiar interest and satisfaction.

“ My dear father was remarkable for simplicity. He affected nothing. There appeared no fear about him, lest he should seem to be different from what he really was. His was not an assumed, but a child-like, spontaneous simplicity. His modesty too was of the same nature; he was not apt to advance inability, as an excuse for declining any useful undertaking. He was always ready to hear, and consider too, the opinions of persons, whom many, his inferiors in understanding, would have slighted. I have known many instances of his inquiring of, and listening to, persons of the most humble situations in life; and paying great attention to their

opinions, when he thought them correct. I never heard him use any professions of humility; and I never saw any act, in which pride, or selfishness, was predominant.

“He was naturally of a sanguine temperament. Religion did not destroy the natural character, but restricted and sanctified it. He was always zealous for good, and earnestly opposed to evil. Against those who espoused the latter, he was apt to use strong, and sometimes severe expressions: but when he was called upon to act towards such persons, he was an example of moderation. He was apt to speak quickly on sudden occasions, but was ever ready to hear any one's defence; and it would have been extremely difficult to have made him angry, or to have offended him, by any personal attack. I have known him receive, but I never knew him resent, a personal reflection, however unjust or severe. Here the power of religion on his mind, was strikingly evinced.

“ Notwithstanding his warm and ardent disposition, he was not apt to form hasty friendships; and he was remarkable for the steadiness of his attachments, and for the zeal with which he studied to serve his friends, both in great, and in small matters. On subjects of little consequence, he was frequently inclined to favour and discuss new opinions: but in matters of importance, and especially in religion and the interests of his country, his principles were decided and steadfast.

“ Though he was firmly attached to the principles of Christianity, as professed by the Society in which he was educated, yet he did not condemn those who differed from him. On the contrary, he used to say, that he thought a variety of opinions unavoidable, from the nature of our minds; that this variety operated usefully; and that the various parts of the Christian system were, by this means, more extensively exemplified: “ The human mind,” said he once to me, “ seems not capacious enough, to embrace the fulness of the blessings of the Gospel.”

“ In the exercise of the ministerial office, it was evident that he preached his Master, not himself. He used the words of Scripture more than many persons : and his use of them proved that no words are better adapted to arouse the indifferent, encourage the diffident, strengthen the weak, and comfort the afflicted. He frequently illustrated very clearly the grand, fundamental doctrines of Christianity.

“ The last time he addressed his own flock, he began in nearly the following words : “ We have God for our father, Jesus Christ for our redeemer and mediator, and the Holy Spirit for our guide and comforter.” In proceeding he dwelt on the various offices of Christ ; the efficacy of his Spirit to redeem us from the corruptions of the world ; and of his sacrifice on the cross to obtain for us eternal life. He was always very careful to show the necessary connexion of these two parts of christian doctrine ; and to enforce the imitation of Christ’s life, as the only sure evidence of being benefitted by his death.

“ In his intercourse with men, he was social and cheerful. The world knew nothing of his cares or sorrows ; yet he lived in continual watchfulness and circumspection. The perfection which he had attained in this exercise, though not discovered by a common observer, formed one of the most material traits in his character ; and made him more at liberty than many pious persons are, for the common avocations of life. Goodness did not, on him, sit uneasily, or by constraint ; it was interwoven in his character. The effect was seen ; but the springs and principles by which it was produced, were concealed from view.

“ His conduct towards young persons was particularly ingratiating. He loved even the prattle of infancy ; joined freely in the innocent amusements of children ; and took particular pleasure in the conversation of youth. He always loved to promote their enjoyments ; and no man could make more allowance for their weaknesses. To

his own children, he had long been equally the father and the friend. His presence never produced uneasy restraint : they felt him as their most delightful companion, their ablest counsellor, and their surest friend. His manners towards them were uniformly kind ; and it was his study to encourage their rational pleasures and pursuits.

“ He loved them too, when of a proper age, to think for themselves ; and though he would sometimes argue with them earnestly, yet he never resented their retaining their own opinion ; but would often speak of it with pleasantry. In the education of children however, he thought the subjection of the will of the highest importance ; and that they should be made to obey their parents, whether they understood the reasonableness of the thing commanded, or not. He was of opinion, that the habit of implicit obedience to parents, in infancy, prepared the minds of children for a more ready submission

and obedience to the will of their Heavenly Father; and that the superior knowledge of parents rendered the obedience of children a reasonable service.

“Indifference to self, was another point which he appeared, by his practice, to think of great consequence in education. He would have his children ready to serve any one, and to forego their own indulgences, when they interfered with the good of others; though he was, at proper times, tender of their little pleasures. He however instilled the principles of which I have spoken, rather by acts and example, than by precepts. He was not much in the habit of moralizing, or of conveying didactic instruction in his own family. Yet, on occasions which called for it, he was very far from neglecting the duty of admonition and instruction: and the manner in which he conveyed it, was such as gave it a deep impression.

“ His mind appeared to be peculiarly formed for society ; and he enjoyed, in a high degree, the intercourse with persons of piety and learning ; more especially with those who, like himself, were devoted to the study of the Holy Scriptures. He was accurately acquainted with these sacred writings, and with the best critical expositions and illustrations of them. And though he chiefly delighted in endeavouring to imbibe himself, and to infuse into others, that spirit and those precepts which they unequivocally teach ; yet he highly esteemed the labours of those who, by the collation of manuscripts, the inquiry into ancient manners and customs, and the critical study of the original tongues, have corrected some errors in our translation ; thrown light on the obscurity of particular passages ; or have given additional force and beauty to others.”

He possessed a great share of decision of character. Whatever he thought desirable to be

done, he appears to have done it without delay. Like Paul, he reasoned not with flesh and blood; and like Matthew, no sooner did he hear his Master's voice, than he arose and followed him with constant fidelity.

“The manner of my dear father's death was to me peculiarly instructive. Though he did not exhibit any of those strong feelings of mind, and rapturous expressions, which have sometimes accompanied the death-bed of the righteous, yet his mind was steadfast and full of hope. He had so long conversed with the invisible realities of a future state, that on their nearer approach, he was calm and dispassionate; equally remote from weak timidity and presumptuous confidence.

“Strongly impressed with the imperfections of human attainments, and how far his best efforts were from deserving the reward to which he aspired, he declared that his hopes were founded

on "Mercy, unmerited mercy." At the same time, relying on those promises which had been the anchor of his life, his trust was strong, that He who had graciously preserved him from the dominion of sin in the world, would finally give him the victory over death, hell, and the grave. His end was in unison with his life, and proved the genuineness of his character."

The zeal of this enlightened man for the benefit of others, appears to have been unwearied. Though he was occupied in the pursuit of business; in the concerns of the society to which he belonged; and in other public and private affairs; as well as with the common daily occurrences of life; yet he found time to compose a number of little works of a moral and religious nature, which he designed chiefly for the use of persons of his own persuasion. They have been well received by the members of the society, and have had an extensive circulation in it; and they are likely to be continued in estimation, as use-

ful and valuable publications. His motives in these literary labours were not only pure and benevolent, but wholly disinterested. The profits arising from them, which were not inconsiderable, were all disposed of in charities, and benefactions to others. The *first* publication, entitled, "The Faith of the People called Quakers, in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," extracted from the writings of various authors of that religious society, appeared in the year 1801; and has had three editions. The *second* work, on "The Principles of Friends;" in which their tenets are considered and explained in a familiar and perspicuous manner, was published in the year 1805; and has passed through six editions. His *third* publication, entitled, "The duties of Religion and Morality, as inculcated in the Holy Scriptures;" adapted to the perusal of persons of every religious denomination, appeared in the year 1807, and has had four editions. His fourth work, entitled, "Select Passages from the Holy Scriptures," designed to impress upon

the minds of young persons, the principal truths of Christianity, by an arrangement of texts under various heads ; was published in the year 1810, and has passed through three editions. The first volume of his last work, entitled, " Biographical Notices of Members of the Society of Friends," came out in the year 1813.

Of these works, " The Duties of Religion and Morality," and the " Select Passages from the Holy Scriptures," being calculated, not for the Society of Friends only, but for general use, may be considered as proofs of his expanded regard for the interests of others ; and will, it is hoped, be found acceptable and beneficial to many who are not of his own particular communion.

He was very desirous, and often expressed it, that the youth of our own society, should be carefully and impressively instructed, in the peculiar principles which we profess, and also in

the great, general doctrines and precepts of the Christian religion. He thought that our young persons were not sufficiently and regularly grounded, in this species of instruction, and he wished for the adoption of some mode by which it might be done more effectually. These principles and doctrines, the foundations of our faith and practice, would, if judiciously inculcated on our youth, with the Divine Blessing super-added, establish their judgments, and prove a preservative and support in their intercourse with the world. It appears that, with these views, he prepared and produced the two volumes just mentioned, namely, "The Principles of Friends," and "The Duties of Religion and Morality;" and they are so well adapted to these purposes, that if attentively and faithfully studied, they would scarcely fail of answering, in a good degree at least, the author's benevolent intentions.

Though the subject of this Memoir was, as his son has observed, firmly and warmly at-

tached to the religious opinions of the society to which he belonged, and of which he was so truly respectable a member, yet he entertained great liberality of sentiment towards those who conscientiously differed from him ; and this liberality continued to expand itself the longer he lived ; and the more his experience, and knowledge of the integrity and true character of his Christian brethren of other denominations, increased.

Of this liberal spirit he gave a gratifying evidence, in a speech which he made at the York Auxiliary Bible Society for the year 1842. A part of this speech has been selected, as an appropriate insertion on this occasion. It is as follows.

“ I feel disposed to express the gratification which I experience, on seeing so large and respectable a meeting of my fellow-citizens, on the present occasion ; and particularly with the

union of Christians of various denominations in the support of this great cause. May we not compare the various sects of Christianity to the different tribes of ancient Israel? We, like them, may have some different views, and separate interests; but we acknowledge one God, and one Lord, even our Lord Jesus Christ. We profess to be governed by the same laws, which are contained in the Holy Scriptures; and though we may not unite in the construction of some of these laws; yet, when we consider in how large a proportion of them the professors of Christianity are agreed, and, consequently, how small is the part in which we differ, there is much cause for us to feel as brethren, and to unite, as has frequently been the case, in defence of our common faith."

Another, and an affecting instance of his liberality, and love towards his fellow-citizens, was exhibited by him, in a speech which he made at the last meeting that he lived to see,

of the York Bible Society held a few months before his decease. And as it is replete with true christian charity, and appears to contain something like a presentiment of his end, an extract from it may, with propriety, be introduced into this account of him. It is therefore presented to the reader.

“There is, indeed, great cause to lament the moral depravity which exists in this favoured nation, and of which, I fear, my native city largely partakes; yet, it affords me great satisfaction to observe the disposition, which, on all occasions, is evinced by so numerous a class of the inhabitants of York, to relieve both the temporal and spiritual wants of our fellow-creatures. This is indeed cause of rejoicing to my mind; and I can truly say, it affords me no small pleasure to believe, that if it should ever be my happy lot to gain an admittance into that city, whose walls are salvation, and its gates praise, I shall there, as well as here, have many fellow-citizens, and, I

trust, no small portion of those who now hear my voice; who, though I may differ from them on some points of Christian Doctrine, or rather, perhaps, of Christian Practice, I feel no difficulty in believing will finally be added to that innumerable multitude, which the divinely eagle-eyed Apostle saw standing before the throne, clothed in white robes, and having palms in their hands; but who, though possessed of these emblems of righteousness and of victory, were far from claiming any merit to themselves, but ascribed their salvation wholly to the Lord God and to the Lamb."

The life of a man so valuable to the public, and to the particular society of which he was a member, so dear to his family and friends, might naturally have excited a hope, that it would have been long preserved, as a bright and useful example in the world. But that Omniscient Being who knows what is best for his creatures, and most conducive to the ends of his Provi-

dence, saw it good to remove his servant from this scene of trial and difficulties, before he had attained the sixtieth year of his age. He had through life, until the last year of it, enjoyed a comfortable, and even vigorous state of health. But about this period, he became infirm, and gradually declined till the time of his decease. His disorder was, at times, attended with much pain. But he was borne above all his afflictions, by a patient, resigned, and steadfast mind; and, at length, finished his course with the peace and hope of a Christian.

His death was an event deeply affecting to his numerous relations and friends, by whom he will be long remembered with esteem and affection. He was also greatly respected by such of his fellow-citizens as had the opportunity of knowing his character; a pleasing proof of which was exhibited at a meeting of the York Bible Society, held a few months after his decease. At this meeting, a number of the

speakers bore strong and interesting testimonies, to the character and virtues of their late, lamented associate; and these tributes of respect met the cordial sympathy of the audience. A few extracts from the speeches made on this occasion, by teachers of different religious professions, will doubtless be acceptable to the reader, as they correspond so entirely with the design of this Memoir.

“I humbly venture,” said one of the speakers, “to express my regret for the loss of one, whose sincere and unaffected testimony was heard last year within these walls, in behalf of the great cause which we profess to advocate; but who is now no more. I shall not soon forget the solemn and impressive language, in which he then spoke of his earnest wishes for the propagation of revealed truth; and the terms, (apparently prophetic of his own decease,) in which he cordially anticipated a more perfect union with his fellow-labourers in a better state. There

is a time to be silent, as well as a time to speak; and our deceased friend, who knew both, evidently never spoke here for the sake of speaking. He was well aware, that the great subject of revelation, needs not the foreign aid of ornament, or the meretricious trappings of mere human eloquence, to deck it out. What he uttered, was uttered as in the sight of God. Let us imitate his sincerity, and may a portion of his benevolent, judicious, and pious spirit rest on some of his survivors—may his mantle fall on a suitable successor.”

“ No part of the business of the day,” said another of the speakers, “ could be more acceptable than that, which has been assigned to me, as it will afford me a fit opportunity of adding, to what you have just heard, my tribute of unfeigned respect, to the memory of that excellent person, who at the last anniversary, discharged the duty to which I am now called, in a manner which cannot soon be forgotten. The ardent piety—the enlarged

benevolence—the unaffected humility which appeared in the admirable address by which he introduced the motion I am now about to propose to your notice, must have made a deep and lasting impression upon the minds of all who heard it. Since that day, it has pleased the Almighty and All-wise Disposer of events, to remove him from the present scene, and we humbly hope, to grant him “an admittance into that city, whose walls are salvation, and whose gates are praise.” In the genuine spirit of that society, of which he was a distinguished member, he was ever zealous in promoting every scheme friendly to human happiness; and that his heart was devoted to the interests of the Bible Society, we have had abundant proof.”

The last speaker on this subject, a clergyman of the church of England, expressed himself in the following manner:—“It was my intention to have trespassed a little on your time, by offering a few reflections on the removal

of a lay-member of our last year's committee, to a more exalted society ; but I have been anticipated by no less than three gentlemen who have addressed you. This circumstance proves how much the memory of that pious and excellent man, lives in the recollection and affections of us all. It has been well observed, with what pleasure he expatiated on the readiness of his fellow-citizens, to concur in every charitable work, (from few of which his purse or his presence was withheld.) This place and this occasion unite to excite in my mind, a vivid remembrance of his look and manner, when he anticipated, in modest hope, his joy in meeting many of religious denominations different from his own, before the throne of heaven. There, I doubt not, he now stands "clothed in white robes, and a palm in his hand." But, to use nearly his own words on that occasion ; "though possessed of these emblems of righteousness and of victory, he is far from claiming any merit to himself, but ascribes his salvation wholly to the Lord God and to the

Lamb." Impressed with the solemnity of this subject, you will bear with me, when I express my serious wish, that while associated for the christian purpose of conveying to others the knowledge of salvation, we may be careful to secure it for ourselves. May it be the happy lot of each of us to ascend in death, whither we may confidently believe our late valuable friend is gone before us ; and where the unhappy distinction of dissenter and churchman will be for ever extinguished, by enlargement of understanding, refinement of principle, and the perfection of love."

It may not be improper to add, on this affecting occasion, a little piece of elegiac poetry, which was composed by a person* who highly valued the subject of this Memoir, and sincerely deplored his loss ; and for whom he entertained a particular respect and regard. It is written with

* Charlotte Richardson.

great simplicity; and not only possesses poetical merit, but contains the genuine effusions of a heart which felt what it described. It is as follows.

LINES,

On the Death of Mr. H. TUKE, August 11th, 1814:

Respectfully addressed to his Family.



A mournful gloom on ev'ry face appears,
From ev'ry eye distil the humid tears.
From whence proceed these signs of general wo?
For Henry's loss those heart-felt sorrows flow.
Search amidst Ebor's worthiest sons around,
Who more than he with Christian virtues crown'd?
His mind with heavenly love and wisdom fraught,
His life adorn'd the doctrines which he taught;
Far as his name, his influence, could extend,
He proved himself religion's genuine friend;
In him the Christian graces were combin'd,
From love to God sprung love to all mankind:
While mem'ry lasts, on many a grateful breast,
Shall his mild virtues ever be imprest,

'Twas his delight to sooth th' afflicted mind,
And point to where the soul might comfort find,
Hence while his bounty could relief impart,
His kindness dropp'd like balm upon the heart;
The pensive widow's sorrowing heart could cheer,
And wipe from many an orphan's face the tear.

Oh my lov'd friend ! when late, with artless lay,
I hail'd with joy sincere thy natal day,
How little thought I, ere the year should end,
I o'er thy grave in tearful wo should bend !
Nor when the cause of truth inspir'd thy tongue,
And listening numbers in attention hung,
While heaven's pure joys seem'd open to thy view,
Who deem'd that *that* would prove thy last adieu ?
Who thought the work of death was then begun,
And thy bright course of glory nearly run ?
That while we gaz'd in solemn, sweet delight,
A few short months would snatch thee from our sight ?
Far other prospects fond affection drew ;
Lov'd the gay scene, and thought the vision true.
Even when disease had fatal inroads made,
And science own'd, no power on earth could aid,
The flatterer Hope still told of lengthen'd years ;
And dash'd from Sorrow's hand the cup of tears.

Delusive hopes ! long cherish'd, but in vain ;
No longer might the soul on earth remain.
To join the myriads which surround the throne,
And realize the scene so lately drawn,
And with the spirits of the just proclaim,
" Salvation to our God, and to the Lamb,"
The spirit fled, and to that City soar'd,
Whose Maker and whose Builder is the Lord ;
Which needeth not the sun's enlivening rays,
" Her walls salvation, and her gates are praise."
The days of mourning find a period here ;
For God from ev'ry face shall wipe the tear.

O may this thought assuage the deep-felt woe
Of those he lov'd and cherish'd here below !
And while affection shall his worth proclaim,
And tears of anguish start at Henry's name,
Dear, valued Relatives ! O may you feel,
That He who gave the wound can also heal !
May resignation's sweet and potent balm,
Shed o'er your minds a sacred, peaceful calm !
While faith shall lead your thoughts from scenes of woe,
To where eternal joys and pleasures flow ;
Where death is not, where pain and sorrow cease,
And all is pure, unutterable peace !

September 17th, 1814.

The writer of this Memoir could easily extend it, by enlarging on the virtues and character of his deceased friend. He knew him well for many years, and esteemed and loved him sincerely : and he feels that the privation of his pleasant, instructive society and friendship, is an irreparable loss. But though this intimate knowledge would enable him to express much more, on the present mournful occasion, yet as the friends of the monthly meeting of which he was a member, have given a solemn testimony, respecting their valued friend, which has been confirmed by the Quarterly meeting for the County of York ; and as it contains an ample enumeration of his moral and religious attainments, and of his usefulness in public and private life ; it is unnecessary to supply the deficiencies of this " Biographical Sketch," any farther than by inserting the testimony. And the writer does not know how he could better close his narrative, than by presenting to the reader so respectable and authentic a memorial of the subject of this work.

A TESTIMONY
OF
YORK MONTHLY MEETING,
Concerning HENRY TUKE, deceased.



TO commemorate, on suitable occasions, the virtues of our deceased friends, who have been the instruments of strength and refreshment to our minds, is a tribute of affection due to their pious labours, a grateful acknowledgement to the Giver of all good, and may prove a comfort and encouragement to those who attentively peruse the memorials of their lives.

We are led to these reflections, by the late mournful event of the death of our much esteemed and beloved friend, Henry Tuke ; who, at a period of life when his religious experience and usefulness were eminently conspicuous, was, in the course of Divine Providence, taken from

us, and removed from his labours of love in the church militant. But whilst we feel and lament the loss of so bright an example of piety and virtue, we desire to bow, with humble submission, and dutiful resignation, to the will of our Heavenly Father; whose dispensations, though often inscrutable by our finite comprehensions, are all assuredly wise, and just, and good. “ Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right,” both when he gives, and when he takes away ?

By the Divine Blessing on a guarded and religious education, this dear friend was led to “ Remember his Creator in the days of his youth.” He was early impressed with the love of his Great Benefactor, and disposed to render to Him the returns of gratitude and obedience, for his manifold mercies : and he was, in a good degree, preserved from the dangers and follies incident to that period of life. His natural disposition was quick and lively ; but the powerful operations of the grace of God happily tempered

his vivacity of nature, and rendered it conducive to an earnest pursuit of his moral and religious duties.

In the twenty-fifth year of his age, he first appeared as a minister of the Gospel ; and evincing a care to move under the influence of the Holy Spirit, and his life corresponding with this sacred office, his ministry was sound and edifying, and truly acceptable to friends. As he derived his own supplies of strength and consolation from the Fountain of Light and Life, and from a diligent perusal of the Holy Scriptures, so he was solicitous to recommend to others, a reverent attention to these great sources of instruction, and of support under all the varied events of time. Although he was diligently engaged in business, and in the cares and provisions connected with a family, yet he was greatly solicitous to secure the one thing needful, the pearl of great price ; and therefore, under all his outward concerns, he continued to increase in true reli-

gion, in the lively exercise of his ministry, and in solicitude for the salvation of his fellow-creatures. His travels in the love and labours of the Gospel, were not very extensive : but we have reason to believe they were owned by his Great Master; and were comfortable and encouraging to many amongst whom he laboured. He visited Ireland twice, Scotland five times, Wales and the Isle of Man once, and also several places in different parts of England : and from these visits he returned, we believe, with the reward of peace.

In the discipline of the Church, he was skilful and active, and extensively useful. He felt the great importance of preserving unimpaired this hedge and guard of our religious principles and practice. But influenced by a judicious spirit of charity and tenderness, he was desirous that his zeal for the maintenance of our salutary institutions, might always be compatible with the design of them, the encouragement of the

right-minded, and the discountenancing and recovery of backsliders. In these services, a care evidently rested on his mind, that he might be humble and watchful, and that his own views of the subject should not be urged beyond that deference and regard, which were due to the sentiments of others.—He was a very diligent attender of our meetings for worship and discipline ; and, for many years, he regularly attended the yearly meeting in London, where, his natural abilities and acquired improvements being sanctified by Divine Grace, he was rendered, we have reason to believe, in no small degree, useful, in supporting the cause of truth and righteousness, and promoting the interests of the society.

Though he was not exempt from trials and conflicts of spirit, he bore them with meekness and submission ; and evinced the dignity of his Christian profession, by that constancy and cheerfulness, which are recommended by our

Lord to his disciples, when he enjoins them, “not to appear unto men to fast.” He was distinguished for a benevolent and affectionate temper of mind, ever ready to relieve the troubles of others, and to promote their comfort and allowable enjoyments. In discharging the various duties of social life, he had peculiar satisfaction. He was a very dutiful and respectful son, a tender and sympathizing husband, a kind, discreet, and liberal minded father. As he knew that he served a good Master, he served Him with a willing mind : and being a grateful receiver of the mercies and benefits bestowed upon him, he was careful frequently to number his blessings ; and to ascribe them all to the bounty of that Gracious Being, “who openeth his hand, and satisfieth the desire of every living thing.”

The prosperity of true religion and righteousness, cheered his spirit. He loved to hear of the welfare of his fellow creatures of every de-

nomination, and in every part of the world: and he was sensibly concerned when, on particular occasions, he perceived the prevalence of injustice and iniquity. It may justly be said of him, that his zeal against wrong things, and his earnestness to promote what was right, were striking and exemplary. In particular, the cause of the oppressed Africans, the success of the Bible Societies, the guarded education of youth and the support of peace and good order amongst men, lay near his heart, and engaged his strenuous exertions. And as he possessed an unfeigned and active love towards others, so he was greatly beloved by a numerous and extensive circle of relations and friends. In all these things, he was a pattern to others: and we hope that the remembrance of his life and conversation may, through Divine Grace, prove the means of stirring up many to go and do likewise; to imitate his watchfulness, charity, zeal and cheerfulness; his love to God and love to men. Whilst thus remembered, he will not be entirely lost to

us : though dead, he will yet speak the encouraging language of, "Follow me, as I have followed Christ."

Notwithstanding the various occupations of our deceased friend, which employed so much of his time, his love for the rising generation, and zeal for the propagation of sound principles, and right conduct, induced him to prepare and publish several little volumes, for the instruction of youth and others, on many important subjects of religion and morality. These pious labours of his, will not soon be forgotten. We trust they will be long valued and perused by many of our society, as books containing much instruction ; and as interesting evidences of his tender regard, and earnest desires for their temporal and eternal welfare.

In the midst of his benevolent views and pursuits, this diligent labourer in the Lord's vineyard, about a year before his decease, began to

be affected with bodily infirmities. They gradually increased upon him, and at length confined him to the house, for nearly eleven weeks previous to his dissolution. In this long period of decay, he continued to employ himself in doing good; and even after his confinement, his love for his friends, and solicitude for their welfare, remained lively and active. He gratefully commemorated the goodness of God to him, which he humbly said was bestowed in mercy, unmerited mercy. To those about him, who faithfully and affectionately ministered to his necessities, he often expressed his thankful acknowledgments; and manifested his concern for them, lest they should not be sufficiently attentive to themselves. Till nearly the close of life, he endeavoured, occasionally, to cheer and encourage his near relatives, and to prevent their spirits from suffering too much depression, under this afflictive dispensation. Through the whole of his illness, which was at times very painful, he exhibited great and exemplary composure, pa-

tience, and resignation to the Divine will. This favoured state of mind, with many expressions of his continued love to others, and an unfailling trust in God, are consoling evidences that, through the blood of the Lamb immaculate, he has gained an admittance into that City, whose walls are salvation, and its gates praise. The evening before his decease, he said, with a dignity and fortitude becoming a faithful servant of God : “ If I die, I die as I have lived, in the faith and hope of a Christian. I am perfectly resigned to the will of my Heavenly Father.”

He died on the eleventh of the eighth month, 1814, in the sixtieth year of his age, and the thirty fifth of his ministry ; and was buried on the sixteenth of the same month. A very solemn meeting was held on the occasion ; in which, and at the grave, the Divine power of truth prevailed, and many hearts were deeply affected.

Read and approved in our Monthly Meeting, held at York the first day of the second month, 1815 ; and signed by many Friends.

Read and approved in York Quarterly Meeting, held at Leeds the 31st of the 3rd month, 1815 ; and, on behalf thereof, signed by

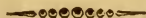
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